

reader would have the background of factual information upon which to place principles and generalities, and by omitting much discussion of anatomy, physiology and clinical medicine which are either repetitions of knowledge already acquired by the student, or for which, in the case of clinical discussions, the student is not prepared, and which the busy physician probably does not need. In spite of these faults, this is a very readable and informative volume, of value to student and practitioner alike. There are 1183 pages, 9 parts and 58 chapters.

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ALLERGIC CHILD, THE. Harry Swartz, M.D., Coward-McCann, Inc., 210 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., 1954. 297 pages, \$3.95.

This is an informative, well-written book on many of the aspects of clinical allergy which will enlighten parents of allergic children, aiding their acceptance of the child's allergic status and of the necessary investigations and treatment to control the causes. The discussion of the nature of allergy, its frequency in the population, its origin in the body, and the refutation that most allergy is outgrown, that infants and young children are too young to treat, that desensitization in children is more dangerous than in adults, that allergic children are neurotic and usually highly intelligent, and other common misconceptions are especially helpful. Then the presentation of the ingestant, inhalant, drug, and infectant causes will increase the parents' knowledge. The discussion of the many gastrointestinal allergies and the urogenital, cerebral, musculo-skeletal, cardiovascular, ocular, aural, and other manifestations of allergy, as well as the usually emphasized nasobronchial and cutaneous symptoms, gives timely emphasis to the ubiquitous allergic reactivity in most body tissues which is still too often doubted or ignored.

The chapter on behavior problems arising from allergy will reassure parents of thus disturbed children. Its perusal should also encourage educators, child psychologists and advisors, pediatricians, and other physicians dealing with children to read the increasing literature on this result of cerebral and chronic allergy. Allergic toxemia and fatigue occur in all ages. The chapters on the methods of study and treatment discuss accepted procedures, variations of which, of course, exist in various clinics and practices of allergists.

Throughout the book, there is a tendency to present moot ideas as accepted opinions, which is difficult to avoid in a brief treatise written for lay people. Many allergists and physicians will disagree with the emphasis on the emotional aspects of allergy and the idea that some symptoms and attitudes arise from the child's craving and out-reaching for love and affection. The writer has observed many children who "have changed from little devils to little saints" with the control of food and/or inhalant allergy, with no attention to psychology influences. Failure to attribute symptoms, however, to mother rejection will relieve and please most allergists. From the parents' viewpoint, Chapter I could have been briefer and included in the section on therapy so that the intriguing early studies on experimental and clinical allergy other than those of the pioneer Richet could have been discussed in the author's pleasing manner.

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WHY WE BECAME DOCTORS. Edited by Noah Fabricant, M.D. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 182 pages, \$3.75.

This is a thoroughly delightful book consisting of a series of fifty short articles by men and women physicians, each telling why and how he became a doctor. The collec-

tion includes entertaining statements, well told, by such international figures as Walter B. Cannon, Somerset Maugham, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Benjamin Rush, Alice Hamilton, Evarts Graham, Stanley Cobb, and a host of others.

Motivation ranges from a desire to do good in the world by a life dedicated to the relief of suffering and the improvement of mankind to such incidents as a great respect for the family physician, a desire to learn more about illness in the family, one who was fascinated as a boy by a preserved specimen of the human brain, to a few who had the decision made for them by their elders. I did not find anything in these fascinating statements that will improve methods of selection of today's applicants for admission to our medical schools but they tell some of the reasons why outstanding doctors made their decisions.

Recommended highly for everyone.

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CURRENT THERAPY—1954—Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practicing Physician. Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1954. 898 pages, \$11.00.

This is the sixth edition of a highly successful annual series on therapeutics. In the plan of the book, it is assumed that the diagnosis has already been made before recourse is had to this volume. This limits the diagnostic discussion and, to a certain extent, the discussion of the management of individual cases.

The contributors include a great number of authors with a large variety of concepts regarding what constitutes adequately informative instruction. This makes for a wide variance in the quality and quantity of the writing. For example, one author takes two and one-half pages to express what his fellow does in a scant half page. And, as the editor states, no editorial judgment is expressed when different conceptions of a single disease are offered or different views of therapy are given by two authors for a specific disease (although some of the opinions may be of doubtful worth).

(The reviewer wonders, incidentally, why the words "method of" must be repeated several hundred times to emphasize the obvious before the name of each contributor.)

Despite these mild snipings, the reviewer feels that this is a valuable, although necessarily limited book for the practitioner or student to have on his shelf to use as a ready reference for his problems of therapy.

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GLANDULAR PHYSIOLOGY AND THERAPY—5th ed. Prepared under the auspices of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. J. B. Lippincott Company, 1954. 611 pages, \$10.00.

This book is much enlarged and completely different from previous editions. Rather than a collection of many papers as before, there are now 22 sections by prominent workers. There is still the deficient integration which is common to many works with numerous contributors. As in most endocrinologic texts, sections are devoted to each of the endocrine glands (the posterior pituitary being one of the longest). In addition, there are sections on Physiology of Menstruation and Ovulation as well as Pregnancy and Lactation. Abnormalities of body weight, sexual behavior, behavior and intelligence are discussed. Endocrine management of neoplastic diseases is reviewed. A short chapter on common misconceptions in endocrine therapy is very enlightening. Forsham's section on diagnostic aids is in itself a short course in endocrinology. There is a fairly lengthy bibliography following each chapter, but the references are generally from 1952 or before and suggest a delay in publication. This book may be recommended to the general physician and medical student.